The Maryland Fruit Grower

Published Monthly by the Maryland State Horticultural Society

Edited by the Secretary, A. F. Vierheller, Extension Horticulturist

Vol. 7 **August-September, 1937** **Nos. 8-9**

MOVING THE APPLE CROP

With a large apple crop in prospect, and the outlook not so encouraging, the fruit grower is beset with the problem of what to do to get the crop into market channels at the most favorable price. Let's look at some figures and estimates.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration estimates the *total* crop at 202 million bushels, or about like that of 1931, and 25 million bushels above the 1935 crop. These crops were the largest in the past 10 years. Of the 1931 crop of 205 million bushels, 113 million bushels were sold as fresh fruit, 18 million bushels exported, and about 95 million bushels of the fresh fruit used in this country. Of the 1935 crop of 177 million bushels, 103 million bushels were sold as fresh fruit, of which 91 million bushels were consumed in this country, and 12 million bushels exported. In 1935, about 2 million bushels were purchased for relief purposes by the Government. It is assumed that 95 million bushels would be used normally in this country this year as fresh fruit. We may also assume that 12 million bushels will be exported. That is a total of 107 million bushels, out of a possible 115 million bushels to be marketed in *commercial* channels.

It appears that about 8 to 10 million bushels in excess of the market requirement will be placed in fresh fruit channels. It is suggested that some program should be worked out by growers where lower grades of fruit could be held off the market. This is being done by the Northwestern growers. There seems little likelihood that canners will take more fruit. They have used the equivalent of about 5 to 6 million bushels of fresh fruit per year. Even then, canned fruit and sauce competes with fresh fruit. The dried apple industry cannot be expected to expand, as the 7½ million bushels of apples used in this industry each year are almost stable. Germany imports about 65 per cent of the dried apples, and this year the outlook and price are not encouraging.

About 75 million boxes of citrus fruit is expected this year in comparison to 81 million boxes last year. The citrus crop was 65 million boxes in 1931 and 71 million boxes in 1935. There will be light competition from citrus fruit this year until after the holidays, when heavy supplies of citrus fruits will be on the markets.

Europe expects a fair-sized apple crop, but there should be more favorable export business, as the crop is shorter than last year. However, Canada has a good crop in prospect, and there will likely be some competition on the English markets. Ocean freight rates are 10c per barrel, 6c per box, and 3½c per Eastern box higher than last year.

However, there are some other favorable things. First, the non-agricultural worker has a higher income and buying power than for several years. Also, the Government is planning to take a considerable amount of Utility grade fruit for relief purposes. Then there is the fine beginning that has been made in advertising. Nearly every apple-producing section has organized some type of advertising plan. Our regional plan, Appalachian Apple, is *set to go*. The detailed plans for publicity and a set of the advertising material to be used, have been sent to all growers who have signed up. The whole program is in the hands of a competent advertising firm. The sign-up is going along well, but there is still plenty of time for all growers, large or small, to subscribe. Think of it. For one cent a bushel of apples, of U. S. Utility and above, that are *actually sold* the grower has his apples advertised in an effective and convincing way. Maybe the price will not be so high, but it would seem only good business to invest one cent a bushel to attempt to sell more apples. Remember, the grower who has 100 bushels, is just as welcome to enter the plan as is the 10,000 bushel grower. Won't you give this some thought? Then just drop a postcard to A. F. Vierheller, either asking for a subscription blank, or else state how many bushels you will subscribe, and the rest will be taken care of. There must be something to advertising, or else the growers of the other sections of the country would not be organizing advertising plans. And just think of the future possibilities of a national plan. In fact, the regional organizations are working together, now, to make the whole plan more effective, and not set up a lot of regional competition. Better attend to this matter now. Send in your subscription. We have a large apple crop to move before the holidays.

WHILE YOU THINK OF IT

Look over the trees as the picking is going on. Observe weak tree to be removed. Watch for mouse injury. Notice where pruning will improve the trees and crop next year. Observe the effects of thinning.

It looks as if only good fruit will bring the profit, this year. If the fruit was grown well, it is a shame to batter it up before it is packed. Watch the pickers and try to have them be more careful in picking and handling the fruit. Watch the hauling crew, to correct rough handling, and improper loading. Look over the grader, and pad every possible place where injury may occur to the fruit. Old inner tubes, or pieces of sponge rubber that can be bought at the 5 & 10 cent store, will make a lot of good padding.

It is possible to get a lot of ideas for next year's crop by observing this year's results.

PEACH VARIETIES

The horticulturists of the Northwestern States have been working on variety recommendations for peaches suited to the various states, and the various types of peach areas in those states. This list when released will be printed in the Maryland Fruit Grower.

USED BASKETS

There has been a lot of fuss kicked up lately about the use of used baskets. It has gone so far as to cause the Federal officials to investigate the extent of use of such containers. Technically, a used container that has not had all marks of its original contents removed, comes under the Misbranding Act, and violates all State and Federal packing laws. Recently, 30 strawberry growers, and dealers were fined, in Illinois, for using falsely branded berry crates.

The used basket business is a big business. In spite of all that can be said, many growers are going to use these used containers. There are advantages as well as disadvantages in such containers, as far as the grower is concerned. Probably a big step in correcting the situation would be to compel the used basket dealer to remove all marks, before he sells these baskets.

The effect of old markings on a basket is not favorable to the consumer. Just recently a lady bought a basket of peaches for one dollar. They were delivered by the dealer. He stated that they were U. S. 1 grade, inspected, and pointed to the marks on the lid. There was the name of a grower in one state. On the side of the basket was a pretty colored tag of a grower in another state. The peaches had come from still another state, and there was every disease and defect on the fruits, that one could imagine. The peaches were returned. A sale might have been made, if the lady had been sent a basket with no marks on it except the words "Orchard Run," or in this case, "Assorted Culls." Well, the used basket is going to be used, but in fairness to all growers, and to the consumer, all old marks should be effaced or erased in some way.

NUT GROWERS IN ANNUAL SESSION

The Northern Nut Growers, Inc., held their annual two-day session in the Horticultural Building, University of Maryland, College Park, on September 13th and 14th. The meetings included a visit to the U. S. Horticultural Field Station, and the nut plantings on the T. P. Littlepage Farm, near Bowie. The meetings were well attended, and discussions were interesting and instructive. It was a pleasure to act as host to this organization.

GASSING THOSE PEACH TREES

Peach growers should look after the gassing of trees for borers. The recommended time to apply P. D. benzine crystals to the trees, is September 15 to 20 for Western Maryland, and October 1 to 15 on Eastern Shore. The dose for trees 5 years and older is 1 ounce per tree. Trees below 5 years old may be treated, using various parts of an ounce, according to tree age, and removing the mounds in about 2 to 3 weeks. On trees 5 years and older, the mounds may be left up all winter, and torn down in the spring. Don't break the ground crust any more than necessary, when preparing the tree for treatment. Don't apply the crystals too near the tree. Stay away about 2 inches, at least. Don't throw the soil toward the tree, when mounding, as it may push the crystals against the tree. Be careful to stay above the borers. The gas, formed by the crystals, is heavier than air, goes down, only. Some growers have dug out too much soil from around the trees, before the crystals were applied, and the results were far from good.

PACKING EXPORT APPLES

According to U. S. Department figures, 12.6% of the barrelled apples sold on Liverpool market, one year, were discounted as slack packs. In some years this figure has run as high as 25.5% and the average discount was 51 cents a barrel. They recommend that a barrel be shaken when one-third and two-thirds full, and racked about 15 times when the barrel is nearly full, with the plug or follower in place. Then over-fill about ¾ of an inch above the top of the staves, and press the lid into place. In tests, it was found that such procedure required about 19 more average-sized apples to fill the barrel than where no shaking was done. Also it was found that over-filling and pressing, merely bruised the top layers of apples, and had little effect in settling the lower part of the pack. It is impossible to pack a barrel of apples without some bruising and resulting rot and slacking of the pack. Methods and results of packing trials as carried on in the Cumberland-Shenandoah section, with York, Rome, Jonathan, and Grimes, are discussed in Technical Bulletin 559, April 1937, published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This bulletin may be purchased from Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 5c per copy.

A Wisconsin grower stated that he had always called a spade a spade until he hit his foot with one the other day.

Of the estimated 202 million bushel apple crop for 1937, about 93 million bushels are in the Eastern States, 57 million in the Central States, and 52 million bushels in the Western States. The Eastern States have the greatest increase, this year. One-half of the Eastern crop is in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Over one-third of the Eastern crop is in New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Over 60% of the Central State crop is in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. These states and the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho have the bulk of the crop.

Can We Be Of Assistance?

East Central Fruit Growers Production Credit Association

Hagerstown, Maryland

Organized for benefit of Fruit Growers in their financial production operations

Organized under the Farm Credit Act of 1933 as a permanent institution for benefit of fruit growers in their financial production operation. Serves the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

THE STORY OF JOHNNY APPLESEED

This story should be of interest to all fruit growers, as it tells of the work of one man who might be called the founder of the modern apple growing industry. It was reprinted from "Wisconsin Horticulture," and appeared originally in the Bulletin of the Garden Club of America.

Jonathan Chapman, a pioneer of apple trees in Ohio, and Indiana, never walked with the great saints of the Roman calendar, St. Francis, St. Michael, or St. Paul, yet he has traits like them.

Though Johnny Appleseed loved to read aloud at night from the Bible and the loose leaves of Swedenborg, which he carried in the bosom of his shirt, he loved even better still to grow apple trees. For forty years apples were as dear to him as the birds to St. Francis. Had he been content to keep the apple to himself, he would have been no saint, but just such another sour old man as the one who said, "There's nothing to life but picking up apples in the fall to store down cellar, and then throwing them out rotten in the spring." If there had been but one apple in Ohio, Johnny would have divided it with the first child he met and then have planted the seeds left in the core. It was all a mistake, he said, to blame the harmless apple for Adam and Eve's fall. When the Lord meant apple, he said apple; eleven times in the Bible had he called the apple by its name, but not once in those first chapters of Genesis. The tree of knowledge of good and evil was no apple tree! He boasted that there were more than a thousand kinds of apples, and that sometimes a tree could live one hundred twenty years and still bear fruit.

The pioneer children, who could eat anything from acorns to raw turnips, but who were born too early to taste the McIntosh Red's pink flesh brimming with juice like a melon, had to hammer these wild apples on their elbows or on the nearest stone-wall to start the bitter sweet juice, tart as a green persimmon, astringent like the quince. Yet it had a gust and sprightliness which they liked, even if it puckered their mouths too tight for even a whistle. Every housekeeper knows that apples too hard and sharp to eat raw without eyes watering make good pies, apple butter and cider.

Johnny Appleseed brought the settlers their one luxury. To plant apple seeds for them by the open spots along river banks, before they had smoked and hacked out their clearing from the dark forest. What a simple, almost silly idea. Yet nobody had thought of it before Johnny. No one else had time or imagination enough, or even the heart to bother with such small seeds or seedlings, what with fighting the Indians, chopping trees, hunting and fishing. Backwoods diet was sparse. There was no salt to flavor mush without trekking a hundred miles; no molasses to sweeten it unless one could float down to New Orleans. Meals were of fish and game, wild berries and such plants as grew along the river banks for humble "greens," crowfoot, cow's glory, creese, poke, puccoon, sissle, and wild turnip, until the first corn and pumpkins ripened. With the fall of the leaf there would have been little to vary this coarse diet without Johnny's apples. Johnny worshipped apples and he could have done worse. Apples and good living, even godly living, go together.

One morning in the spring of 1801, in Licking County, one Isaac Sledden, who was working near his cabin, saw a traveler riding up the trail on horseback. For the two days the stranger stayed with the Sleddens he would talk of nothing but planting apple trees, so that other settlers coming up Licking

Creek would find something to eat, ready and ripening, besides wild game and fish. Both of his saddlebags were full of apple seeds which he had gathered the fall before from cider presses in New York and western Pennsylvania. If Isaac Sledden would let him, he proposed to plant some of these out there in the clearing. Isaac was willing enough, since it cost him nothing and since Johnny did the work, and Mrs. Sledden came out to watch the stranger hoe the soil and cover the seeds with brush. Five years later on the banks of the Ohio River below Steubenville another settler had recorded his first sight of a scantily dressed boatman in ragged trousers with a tin pan on his head, a hatchet and a corn cutter at hand, dropping downstream in a queer craft, two Indian dugouts lashed together and loaded with bags of appleseeds.

John Chapman was probably born near Bunker Hill monument in Boston. His father, a poor carpenter before his Revolutionary service, and a poorer one afterward, never laid hands on Johnny, though the boy was always running away to the woods to watch birds and gather flowers. At eighteen he started with a younger brother on foot and mostly by Indian trails to the headwaters of the Ohio, the "Beautiful River" of the early French and English explorers, where forests were deeper and the prairies thick with flowers. At that time Pittsburgh Landing had less than one thousand inhabitants. There was not a church nor an orchard. Down the sycamore-lined shores of the river at Marietta six years later, Johnny found a single beautiful apple tree which Dr. Jabez True, physician to the Ohio Company, had brought from Potomac and planted near Fort Harmer. Johnny stared at it, then turned to the doctor with the words, "The hour will come when there will be many such trees bearing fruit in these settlements."

The Ohio Company, it was rumored, had bought five hundred thousand acres of land at 66⅔c an cre, which it was now selling for two dollars. Its officials were inclined to sympathize with this quixotic fellow who wished to make these acres productive, to the extent of detailing some of the fort soldiers to help him.

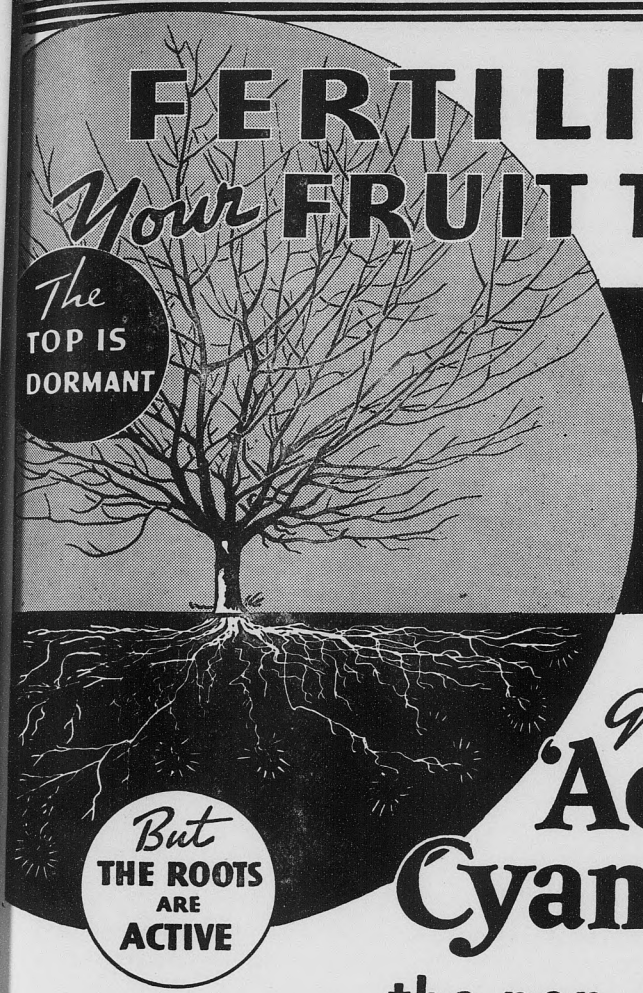
On the wharf, at Pittsburgh, wrapped in straw, he had young apple trees ready to give to the emigrants as they floated down on flatboats to new settlements, and he filled for them also little deerskin pouches, holding an ounce of apple seeds apiece. A Chicago student tells today of one bag still kept as a memento of his family's pioneer days. When stage coaches began to thunder into Ohio on newly opened roads, Johnny left the cramping walls of his four-room cabin and his fine young orchard at Brilliant, "the wonder of the wilderness," and discarded his buckskins and moccasin leggings with his coonskin cap. He could not trust the hard bitten pioneers to grow apples, but must himself push on ahead of them and plant.

(To be continued Next Month)

Michigan Circular No. 160, "Protecting Cherries from Birds," describes the new automatic device that frightens birds by occasional explosions. The circular is published by Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing.

HAVE YOU READ THE ADVERTISEMENTS?

FERTILIZE Your FRUIT TREES this Fall



with Granular

'Aero' Cyanamid

the non-leaching

NITROGEN FERTILIZER

Get the job out of the way of Spring work

Ask your local dealer for Leaflet- F-142 or write

AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

NEW YORK, N. Y

'Aero' Cyanamid is Nitrogen plus Lime

SPRAY for PEACH BORERS!

Spray with Scalecide and Paradichlorbenzene Early this Fall

This combination is one of the safest and most economical peach borer control. It saves labor, as no preparation of the ground is necessary and it is not necessary to remove the mounds.

Dissolve 1 to 2 pounds of paradichlorbenzene in 1 gallon of Scalecide. Dilute this with 7 gallons of water. Spray the base of the trees and mound as you would for the crystal method. The best time for this application is in the Fall before the ground temperature is colder than 60°, as the gas is not as active at colder temperatures. One gallon of Scalecide and paradichlorbenzene will treat 40 to 50 full grown peach trees.

Substitute this labor saving method as growers are doing throughout the fruit growing world. We can supply you with Scalecide containing Paradichlorbenzene at the cost of the two materials, or you may dissolve your own.

Write for new folder "Peach trees need Scalecide".

for EVERY NEED PRATT'S OIL SPRAYS for EVERY PURSE

B. G. Pratt Company

Dept. "F"

50 Church Street, New York, N. Y.